

Floor Feeding for Rodents

Adopted by the University Committee on Animal Resources

"Feeders should be designed and placed to allow easy access to food and to minimize contamination with urine and feces..." (*The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* 8th ed. pg. 66). Appropriate feeders should be used as a standard practice. However, sometimes it is necessary to provide small amounts of feed on the floor for a variety of husbandry and animal welfare reasons.

UCAR Approved Conditions for Floor Feeding of Rodents:

1. Provision of dry or moist chow when it is necessary to encourage rodents to eat or aid those that have difficulty reaching the feed in elevated feeders.
Examples are :
 - Weak or debilitated rodents
 - Young or small rodents
 - Post-op rodents
2. Provision of moist chow to dehydrated rodents.
3. Provision of food/water in gel form or semi-moist supplements (such as Transgenic Dough™)
4. Use of ground or powdered chow feeders that sit on the cage floor.
5. Any other reason justified by the investigator and approved by UCAR.

The regular practice of floor feeding without scientific justification or an animal welfare reason is not permitted.

Reapproved 5/21/25